REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 25, 2006. Initially, it is noted that this is a Non-final Office Action in which claims 1-15 have been rejected, claims 16-23 having been withdraw from further consideration at this time. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the withdrawn claims.

The Examiner has noted that the Oath and Declaration that was filed on July 12, 2004 identifies the specification as U.S. Serial No. 10/649,165. However, the Serial No. of the subject application is 10/648,876 and a new Oath and Declaration has been requested listing the correct serial number. Applicant's agent in Germany has indicated that a substitute Oath has been mailed, but this has not yet been received. As soon as the Oath is received it will be immediately submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office.

The drawings have been objected to, for reasons set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Attached hereto is a "Replacement Sheet" to be substituted for the original first sheet of drawings bearing Figs. 1 and 2.

The Examiner has objected to the title, and has suggested that the title should delete references to the method and device. This requirement is respectfully traversed since the method claims 8-15 have not been withdrawn and are still of record and subject to examination. Accordingly, the title has been corrected to: Vehicle Seal with Flexible Reinforcement Intermittently Alternating Nonmetallic Sections of Different Hardness and Method for Producing the Same.

The Abstract has been objected to for reasons set forth on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action. The Abstract has been revised and shortened and, therefore, should be consistent with the Examiner's guidelines. In this connection, the Examiner has also requested that the Specification be amended to insert section headings and the Specification has been so amended herein.

Claims 1-15 have also been rejected as being indefinite for reasons set forth on page 7 of the Office Action. The claims have been extensively revised and all corrections that have been uncovered, including the revisions proposed by the Examiner have been made so that it respectfully submitted that the claims of record 1-15, 24 and 25 now particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

The independent claims 1 and 8 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,676,856 to Shigeki et al., for reasons set forth on pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the revisions made to the claims and the remarks presented below.

Thus, as claims 1 and 8 currently recite, the flexible reinforcement for the vehicle seals includes first and second individual sections which are nonmetallic with one being softer and the other one more stable and rigid, with these sections intermittently alternating along the longitudinal direction of the reinforcement. None of the applied prior art teaches or remotely suggests this type of constructions. Thus, both Shigeki et al. and Drozd include substantially continuous metallic reinforcements or inserts. Thus, the reinforcement 138 in Drozd is shown in a cross-section in Fig. 2 it is a rigid core of metal

(column 6, lines 40/41) and it is taken from a continuous roll (column 6, line 41). This reinforcement is made of metal and, because it is continuous instead of being intermittent, it has the same length as the entire seal.

The same is true of Shigeki et al. in which the reinforcement 14, shown in Figs. 13 and 16, is also a strip of metal and also has the same length as the entire seal because the reinforcement is a continuous metallic member that extends along the longitudinal direction of the seal. None of the prior art references teach or even remotely suggest a reinforcement which is formed of two different nonmetallic materials, one of which is softer or harder than the other and which intermittently alternate along the longitudinal direction of the seal, whereby one material is continuously interrupted by pieces of the other material.

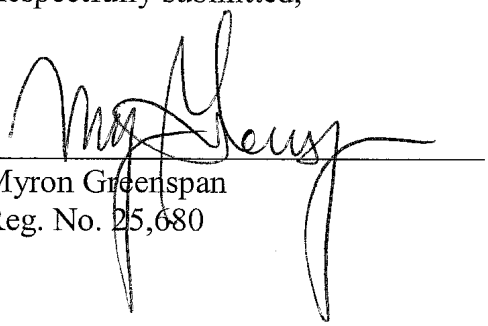
As suggested, the reinforcement in the subject invention is not made from metal, as has and continues to be stated in the claims of record. The reinforcement formed of two different kinds of nonmetallic materials, such as plastic, in which one is softer or more rigid than the other. The number of short pieces are different sorts of plastic and are alternatetingly extruded one after another and form a long chain that is used as a long reinforcement.

Since none of the references teach or even remotely suggest this type of construction, it is clear that not only do these references fail to fully anticipate the invention, as contemplated by 35 U.S.C. § 102, but there is no suggestion or incentive to modify the prior art constructions to arrive at the claim subject matter, in the sense of 35 U.S.C. § 103.

All of the claims of record now depend directly or indirectly upon presumably allowable claims 1 and 8. Early allowance and issuance is, accordingly, respectfully solicited.

Dated: March 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



Lackenbach Siegel, LLP
One Chase Road
Scarsdale, New York 10583
(914) 723-4300

Myron Greenspan
Reg. No. 25,680